

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENT

This Amendment cancels Claims 2, 4 and 7; and amends Claims 1, 3, 5 and 8. Support for the amendments is found in the specification and claims as originally filed. In particular, support for Claim 1 is found in Claim 4 and in the specification at least at page 8, line 14 to page 9, line 4 (paragraph [0014] of US2007/0127130A1). Support for Claims 5 and 8 is found in canceled Claim 7. No new matter would be introduced by entry of these amendments.

Upon entry of these amendments, Claims 1, 3, 5-6 and 8 will be pending in this application. Claims 1, 5 and 8 are independent.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Applicants respectfully request entry of the foregoing and reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, in light of the remarks that follow.

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 6,295,109 ("Kubo").

Claims 1-3 and 5-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,747,720 ("Saiki").

Claim 4, which is not rejected over prior art, is incorporated into independent Claim 1.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication in the Office Action at section 6 that Claim 7 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 7 is incorporated into independent Claims 5 and 8.

Thus, the prior art rejections should be withdrawn.

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. To obviate the objection, Claim 1 is amended.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner acknowledge consideration of the AW and AX references cited in the Information Disclosure Statement filed August 16, 2006, by initialing the associated Form PTO-1449. The Office Action dated January 7, 2008, asserted "references not provided". However, Applicants did provide these references, and the Patent Office received these references from Applicants. Applicants note that **these references can be accessed through the U.S. Patent Office's Private PAIR system.**

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is necessary in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below

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